

Testimony
Senate Bill 2118 – Department of Human Services
Senate Human Services Committee
Senator Lee, Chairman
January 11, 2017

Chairman Lee, and members of the Senate Human Services Committee, I am Pamela Sagness, Director of the Behavioral Health Division for the Department of Human Service (Department). I am here today in support of Senate Bill 2118, which was introduced at the request of the Department.

The proposed changes would update the language to be consistent with the current version of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorder, for example “Gambling Disorder” instead of compulsive gambling.

In addition, proposed language seeks to ensure individuals providing gambling services are working within the scope of their profession.

Lastly, the proposed changes will utilize person-first language. The bill proposes to change “compulsive gamblers” to “individuals with a gambling disorder”.

The North Dakota Problem Gambling Advisory Council provided input to the Department regarding these recommendations. That concludes my testimony. I am available to address any questions.